

12.143 EXPLOSIVE DETECTION UNIT (EDU) CANINE OPERATIONS

Reference:

Procedure 12.300 - Investigation of Bombs & Bomb Threats, Disposal of Dangerous War Souvenirs & Explosives

Purpose:

Familiarize Department personnel with Explosive Detection Unit (EDU) canine operating procedure and policy, and ensure the best use of canine teams.

Policy:

EDU canines are normally assigned to such tasks and areas as directed by the Tactical Planning Section Commander. However, the Department may use them for any situation requiring police action where furtherance of the police mission is accomplished by their use. Handlers will maintain control of the canine and be diligent to ensure the safety of the general public.

The handler will ensure the dog is secure in the police vehicle except when directly involved in a police function or the handler anticipates imminent use. Canines will be kept on a lead in areas where the public has access and contact is a probability, unless the animal is being used for a police purpose.

Information:

EDU canines are not infallible. Their effectiveness depends largely upon the intelligent application of their capabilities. EDU canines can be utilized to augment a search by detecting the odor of specific explosive substances. The list is confidential, but includes most of the substances common to explosives.

EDU canines are utilized for investigating suspicious packages and bomb threats. If a bomb has been identified EDU canine will be utilized for the investigation of possible secondary devices.

Except for training purposes, no teasing, petting, or feeding of the canines by police or civilian personnel is permitted without consent of the handler.

EDU canine teams are assigned to the Tactical Planning Section and are normally available 24 hours a day.

District commanders may request EDU canine teams for special or extended assignments through the Tactical Planning Section Commander.

In cases of emergency, when EDU canine teams are not on duty, the shift Officer In Charge (OIC) may recall an EDU canine team through Police Communications Section (PCS). PCS will recall by using a specific rotation schedule of EDU canine teams.

Procedure:

A. Use of the EDU Canine

1. The on-scene supervisor will make the decision to request an EDU canine team and will organize a search of the premises using Procedure 12.300 Section A.4.
2. The canine handler will recommend to the on-scene supervisor the best tactical application and deployment of the EDU canine.
 - a. Since the EDU canine is used for a specific purpose, a clear understanding of how to properly use the canine to accomplish the mission is very important.
 - b. EDU canine handlers will determine deployment of EDU canines and duration of deployment.

- c. If the handler's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and the on-scene supervisor's interpretation of the best tactical application and deployment of the EDU canine conflict, the on-scene supervisor will contact the Tactical Planning Section Commander. If the Tactical Planning Section Commander is not available, contact the Assistant Tactical Planning Section Commander.

B. Accidental Bites

1. First responder is to render immediate first aid to the injured person and call for additional medical assistance if necessary.
 - a. The handler will complete a Form 316, Minor Accident/Aided Case/Mental Health Response Report, in all cases of injury from canines. For instances involving police officers or other City employees see Section B.2.b.
2. The on-scene supervisor will notify the on-duty Tactical Planning Section supervisor.
 - a. If an on-duty Tactical Planning Section supervisor is not available, the incident will be investigated by a supervisor in the district of occurrence.
 - b. The supervisor will complete a Form 91SP, Supervisory Investigation of Employee Injury, in instances involving police officers or other City employees.
 - c. While still on the scene, notify one of the following in this order:
 - 1) Tactical Planning Section Commander
 - 2) Assistant Tactical Planning Section Commander
 - 3) Night Chief if during the night hours
 - 4) Duty officer

C. Use of the EDU Canine Teams Outside City Limits

1. The intended use of the EDU canine team must follow Cincinnati Police Department guidelines as listed in the Procedure Manual and the Manual of Rules and Regulations and Disciplinary Process.
2. Approval must be given by a Department captain or above.
 - a. If a captain or above is not available, the Tactical Planning Section Commander may give authorization.
 - b. If a captain or above or the Tactical Planning Section Commander is not available, obtain approval from the OIC of the nearest district.
3. EDU canine teams may be used on request in Campbell, Kenton and Boone County in Kentucky; Dearborn County in Indiana; and Clermont, Butler, and Warren County in Ohio.

D. EDU Canine Officer Uniforms

1. The following items are issued to EDU canine officers as part of their Department uniforms:
 - a. Dark blue cotton tactical type uniform pant and shirt equipped with agency patch and badge patch.
 - b. Black leather boots.
2. EDU canine officers will wear the uniform of the day while attending court or involved in any extension of police service detail not utilizing their EDU canine.
 - a. The blue tactical uniform may be worn whenever the EDU canine officer is performing an EDU search function or during training.